



European
Commission

Management Plan 2023

DG JUST

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JUST will contribute to fostering the post-pandemic economic recovery, with initiatives in all areas of its competence: justice, consumers, equality and upholding EU values.

DG JUST will continue to support the Commission response to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and will contribute to the Commission's work on inclusion of refugees from Ukraine, including the needs of particular groups with further vulnerabilities. The Commission proposed a Council Decision to extend the list of Eurocrimes to the violation of EU sanctions, formally adopted by the Council on 28 November 2022. DG JUST is in the lead of the 'Freeze and Seize' task force which ensures EU-level coordination to implement sanctions against listed Russian and Belarussian individuals and companies. The mandate of the Eurojust Agency has been strengthened in order to give it the legal possibility to preserve and share evidence on war crimes.



A new push for European democracy

- Strengthened rule of law in the Union
- Strengthened application of fundamental rights
- Improved framework to protect democracy in the European Union
- Increased perception of the status and the rights conferred by European citizenship
- High level of personal data protection achieved throughout the EU and EU data protection promoted as a global model
- Eliminate inequalities and discrimination, and promote equality for all



A European Green Deal

- Improved sustainable consumption by empowering consumers and improved integration of sustainability considerations into companies' and companies' boards behaviour through an upgraded corporate governance framework



A Europe fit for the digital age

- Consumers are empowered and better protected
- A human-centric legal framework for Artificial intelligence that protects citizens and promotes cross-border trade
- Company law improves conditions for companies, including SMEs, in particular to operate and expand cross-border and to use digital tools



Promoting our European way of life

- Improved cross-border cooperation in civil and criminal matters
- Improved access to justice for citizens and facilitated cross-border cooperation for judicial authorities through better use of digital technologies

PART 1. Delivering on the Commission’s priorities: main outputs for 2023

General objective:

A new push for European democracy



Specific objective 1. Strengthened rule of law in the Union

The European Union relies on the rule of law in all Member States. The rule of law is the precondition for the respect of all other fundamental values, including fundamental rights and democracy. It is a prerequisite for the effective application of EU law and for mutual trust between Member States. It is also central to making the European Union work well as an Internal Market and as an area of freedom, security and justice, where laws apply effectively and uniformly, where people’s fundamental rights are respected and where budgets are spent in accordance with the applicable rules.

As part of the Rule of Law Mechanism, in 2023 the Commission will adopt **the fourth Annual Rule of Law Report**, a preventive tool to help Member States uphold the rule of law. The 2023 Report will include the assessment of the progress in the implementation of recommendations issued in the 2022 Rule of Law Report. DG JUST will continue providing support for the Commission’s application of the Rule of Law Toolbox, which now includes the general budget conditionality, the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the European Semester, as well as infringement proceedings where required. DG JUST will also support the Council in conducting the two Article 7 TEU procedures, currently pending. DG JUST will also support Commissioner Reynders in facilitating the dialogue and exchange of good practices among Constitutional jurisdictions, with a view to supporting their role in protecting the rule of law in the EU. The **2023 EU Justice Scoreboard** will also be prepared, providing a comparative overview of the efficiency, quality, and independence of national justice systems.

General objective: A new push for European democracy

Specific objective 1: Strengthened rule of law in the Union

Related to spending programme(s): Justice Programme

Main outputs in 2023:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
2023 Rule of Law Report (JUST co-CdF with SG)	Adoption of report/ country chapters	Q3 2023

External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Increased awareness on the rule of law among the defined target audiences in AT, BE, BG, CZ, DK, EE, DE, EL, FR, ES, IE, HR, IT, CY, LV, LT, LU, HU, MT, NL	Reach: Number of contacts made during the campaign (audited circulation and audience analytics) Other indicators to be defined in function of target audiences, countries and channels selected	To be defined before launching the project

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
2023 EU Justice Scoreboard	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023

Output	Indicator	Target
Monitoring of country-specific challenges for the effectiveness of justice systems in the context of the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) European Semester and b) the Recovery and Resilience Facility 	Delivery of DG JUST contributions to the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) monitoring of the implementation of the country specific recommendations from the preceding European Semester cycles, and to Commission documents to be adopted in the context of the European Semester; b) assessment of the implementation of the national recovery and resilience plans 	Q1 2023 Q2 2023 Q3 2023 Q4 2023
High-level Conference with Constitutional Jurisdictions of the EU	Support to CAB Reynders in the preparation of the second High-level Conference with representatives of the Constitutional Jurisdictions of the EU	Q3 2023

Specific objective 2: Strengthened application of fundamental rights

In 2023 DG JUST will continue to ensure that the Commission fully applies the Charter of Fundamental Rights in all its actions. DG JUST will follow up on its 2022 annual report on the application of the Charter in the EU dedicated to a thriving civic space for upholding fundamental rights in the EU [precise actions tbc]. It will also present the **2023 annual Charter report** on a theme (to be decided) focusing on a policy area of strategic relevance for fundamental rights governed by EU law. DG JUST will also launch the development of Charter training materials, and will implement trainings targeted at EU staff on how to ensure that all EU policy and initiatives comply with the Charter. In the framework of the horizontal enabling condition on the Charter, DG JUST will remain closely involved in the assessment of whether the Member States have effective mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with the Charter of the programmes supported by the Funds covered by the Common Provisions Regulation and their implementation.

Combating hate speech and hate crime is a key tool to ensure the respect of the right to non-discrimination, to foster tolerance and uphold EU values. DG JUST will continue to ensure that EU legislation criminalising racist and xenophobic hate speech and hate crime is correctly transposed into national law. DG JUST will continue to support negotiations in the Council

and the European Parliament on the Commission initiative to include hate speech and hate crime in the list of EU crimes in Article 83(1) TFEU.

The Commission will also continue its policy work through the High Level Group on combating hate speech and hate crime, and monitor the implementation of the Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online, also in the light of the provisions in the Digital Services Act.

Through implementation of the 2021 **EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life**, the Commission steps up action to actively prevent and combat antisemitism in all its forms, coordinated by DG JUST. In the Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism, the Council invited the Member States to develop national strategies to combat antisemitism and endeavour to do so by end 2022. The Commission will support the Member States, and relevant stakeholders to develop and implement these strategies.

DG JUST will also continue coordinating the implementation of the **EU strategy on the rights of the child**, mainstreaming children's rights across the Commission's actions. In 2023, the EU Children's Participation Platform will be operational to foster children's participation across the EU to political and democratic life. It will deliver on the recommendations of the Conference on the Future of Europe and foster children's engagement, as active citizens. DG JUST will also organise targeted consultations and carry out a mapping study on integrated child protection systems to better protect children from violence, preparing for a key initiative on integrated child protection systems in 2024. The EU Network on children's rights will contribute to these actions by reinforcing collaboration among Member States, stakeholders and the EU institutions.

Ensuring effective protection of whistle blowers who report breaches of Union law promotes the rule of law and democracy and safeguards the right to freedom of expression, enshrined in Article 11 of the Charter. DG JUST is taking all necessary measures to ensure the full and correct transposition and **effective implementation of the Whistleblowing Directive** (Directive 2019/1937)³ in all Member States, including by launching infringement proceedings where necessary. It is also providing advice to other services to ensure that, where necessary, Commission proposals for new legal acts include the standards of Directive 2019/1937 so as to enhance their effective enforcement.

³ [EUR-Lex - 32019L1937 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

General objective: A new push for European democracy

Specific objective 2: Strengthened application of fundamental rights

Related to spending programme(s): CERV

Main outputs in 2023:

Public consultations

Output	Indicator	Target
Integrated child protection systems	Targeted consultation (TBC)	Q2/Q3 2023

Enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Infringement proceedings on Framework Decision 2008/913 on combating racism and xenophobia	Reasoned opinions	Q2/Q3 2023
Infringement proceedings on Directive 2019/1937 on the protection of persons reporting breaches of Union law	Number of infringement proceedings for non-communication cases	Q1/Q2, 2023
Infringement proceedings on Directive 2019/1158 on work-life balance for parents and carers	Number of infringement proceedings for non-communication cases	Q2-3, 2023

External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Increased awareness on Jewish life among target audiences in FR, DE, HU, NL, BE, IT, SE, ES, AT, RO, DK, LV, PL, EL, CZ, PT, IE	Reach: Number of contacts made during the campaign (audited circulation and audience analytics). Other indicators to be defined in function of target audiences, countries and channels selected.	To be defined before launching the project
Increased number and improved quality of applications to the CERV Programme, and (2) increased awareness of how the EU spends taxpayers' money to promote a Union of rights and values through the CERV programme in CZ, EE, FR, DE, HU, PL, BG, SI, RO, CY, EL, SE, AT, DK, IT, PT, FI, LV, NL, SK, ES	Reach: Number of applications received and number of contacts made during the campaign (audited circulation and audience analytics). Other indicators to be defined in function of target audiences, countries and channels selected.	To be defined before launching the project

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Launch of a knowledge hub on countering hate speech online	New contract or grant in place	Q4
Working Group on the implementation of the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life	Two meetings	Q2 and Q4 2023
EU Children's Participation Platform	Set up of the EU Children's Participation Platform and operational dedicated webpage	Q1/Q2 2023
EU Network on Children's rights	Work programme, meetings and activities	2023
Preparation of the initiative on integrated child protection systems	Targeted consultation of Member States, stakeholders, civil society organisations, mapping study	Q2/Q3 2023, in view of launching an initiative early 2024
EU-wide survey on antisemitic prejudices in the general population of all Member States, including among young people.	New contract in place	Q2 2023
2023 Charter report	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2023
Charter training	Training modules implemented: EU Learn training targeted at EU staff on how to ensure that all EU policy and initiatives comply with the Charter	3-4 trainings throughout 2023

Output	Indicator	Target
Funding actions promoting the capacity building and awareness on the EU Charter of fundamental rights, promoting and protecting Union Values	<p>Number of action grants to promote capacity building and awareness on the EU Charter of fundamental rights</p> <p>Number of operating grants in the area of promoting and protecting Union Values</p>	<p>Call for proposals to promote awareness of, capacity building and implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (CERV-2023-CHAR-LITI): 50</p> <p>Operating grants to framework partners active in the area of Union values (CERV-2023-OG-SGA): 2</p> <p>Promote and protect Union Values (2 organisations)</p>

Specific objective 3: Improved framework to protect democracy in the European Union

Following President von der Leyen’s announcement in the 2022 State of the Union Address, the Commission will put forward **the Defence of Democracy Package** in 2023, including a legislative initiative on the protection of the EU democratic sphere from covert influence by third countries (based on Article 114 TFEU) as well as a review of the actions under the European Democracy Action Plan (looking at its three pillars: (i) to promote free and fair elections; (ii) to step up the fight against disinformation; and to (iii) support media freedom and pluralism. This would also be an opportunity to set out how developing civic space and citizen participation could also bolster democratic resilience from within.

DG JUST will also continue to implement the package adopted in 2021 on reinforcing democracy and integrity of elections by supporting negotiations in the Council and the European Parliament on the **proposal on transparency and targeting of political ads**.

Work in the context of the European Cooperation Network on Elections will include preparations for the 2024 European Parliament elections. The Commission also intends to deliver, in close cooperation with Member States in the framework of the European Cooperation Network on Elections, a compendium on e-voting practices, which should also address elements of disinformation and protection against threats to elections, and a ‘guide of good electoral practice addressing participation of citizens with disabilities in the electoral process. To that end, DG JUST set up joint expert teams in the framework of the European Cooperation Network on Elections.


General objective: A new push for European democracy

Specific objective 3: Improved framework to protect democracy in the European Union

Related to spending programme(s): REC/CERV Programme

Main outputs in 2023:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
 ⁴ Defence of Democracy package (including legislative initiative)	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023

Public consultations

Output	Indicator	Target
Public consultation linked to Defence of Democracy package	Summary report	Q1 2023

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Staff Working Document supporting Defence of Democracy package	Staff Working Document finalised/published	Q2 2023
Proposal on transparency and targeting of political ads	Adoption by co-legislators	Q2 2023

⁴ 2023 Commission Work Programme Initiative.

Output	Indicator	Target
Funding actions in the area of citizens participation	<p>Number of action grants in the area of citizens participation including town twinning and network of towns as well as in the area of remembrance and Union Values</p> <p>Number of operating grants in the area of citizens participation including town twinning and network of towns as well as in the area of remembrance</p>	<p>Call for proposals on European remembrance (CERV-2023-CITIZENS-REM): 40</p> <p>Call for proposals on Citizens' engagement and participation (CERV-2023-CITIZENS-CIV): 100</p> <p>Call for proposals for Networks of Towns (CERV-2023-CITIZENS-TOWN-NT): 28</p> <p>Call for proposals for Town-Twinning (CERV-2023-CITIZENS-TOWN-TT): 145</p> <p>Operating grants to framework partners active in the area of Union values (CERV-2023-OG-SGA): 44</p> <p>Promote citizens engagement and participation (36 organisations)</p> <p>Promote European remembrance (8 organisations)</p>
Guide of good electoral practice addressing participation of citizens with disabilities in the electoral process	Guide published	Q3 2023
Compendium on e-voting practices	Compendium published	Q1 2023

Specific objective 4. Increased perception of the status and the rights conferred by European citizenship

In accordance with Article 25 TFEU, the Commission will issue a report on EU citizenship. The report will also mark the 30th anniversary of entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty, which for the first time introduced the concept of EU citizenship. The Commission committed in its follow up to the Conference on the Future of Europe to make **European citizenship** more tangible to citizens, including by providing reliable and easily accessible information about it. To this end, DG JUST will run in 2023 a communication campaign aimed at increasing the awareness and knowledge of EU citizens about their citizenship rights.

In relation to electoral rights of mobile EU citizens, DG JUST will continue to work with the Council and the European Parliament on the proposals on the **electoral rights of mobile EU citizens**. Furthermore, in view of the European Elections 2024, the Commission will implement measures to promote EU citizens' turnout and to inform mobile EU citizens of their electoral rights as well as to solve potential issues they might encounter during the electoral period.

In the field of **consular protection**, DG JUST will work in cooperation with the EEAS and revise the current directive, taking into account the lessons learned from the consular dimension of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as the effects of Brexit. Following the Commission report on the implementation and application of the consular protection directive of 2022, the new rules aim to enhance cooperation among Member States and strengthen the EU's supporting role, resulting in better provision of consular protection to EU citizens travelling to third countries.

As far as free movement of persons is concerned, the **adoption of the free movement guidelines** in 2023, taking into account the latest jurisprudence as well as lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, will provide for the necessary legal clarity for both citizens and practitioners alike. It will also ensure that rainbow families will be able to rely on free movement rights in a cross-border context. While the Commission will take stock of the implementation of the Regulation on identity cards and residence documents, which entered into application in 2021, it will also address future developments such as the digitalisation of travel documents - an Initiative included in the 2023 Commission Work Programme under headline ambition Promoting our European way of life. DG JUST is also **mainstreaming the free movement acquis** in a wide range of initiatives adopted by the Commission (e.g. parenthood initiative, amendment to the Schengen Borders Code, digitalisation of the visa procedure). Finally, DG JUST will continue leading the negotiations with relevant partner countries on the take-over of EU legislation in the area of free movement of persons.

DG JUST will also continue to closely monitor the correct application of the acquis on EU citizenship rights.

DG JUST continues to work on the implementation of the citizens' rights part of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement in the Member States as well as, in the context of the specialised committee on citizens' rights, in the United Kingdom. This includes ensuring that the rights of Withdrawal Agreement beneficiaries and their family members are respected in other policy areas, in particular with regard to movement into and inside the Schengen area.


General objective: A new push for European democracy

Specific objective 4: Increased perception of the status and the rights conferred by European citizenship

Related to spending programme(s): REC/CERV Programme

Main outputs in 2023:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Citizenship report 2023	Adoption by the Commission	Q2/Q4 2023
Eurobarometer on Citizenship and Democracy	Publication of results	Q1/Q2 2023
Consular protection directive- review of EU rules	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023
 Proposal on the digitalisation of travel documents and facilitation of travel (with DG HOME)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2023

Enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Report on the derogations under 93/109/EC directive	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023
Report on the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2021/1157	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2023

External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Providing information to citizens about their EU citizenship rights.	Reach + additional KPIs depending on the campaign approach Q1 2023	TBC in Q1 2023

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Proposal on right to vote and to stand as a candidate in municipal elections	Adoption by co-legislators	Q2 2023
Proposal on right to vote and stand as a candidate in elections to the European Parliament	Adoption by co-legislators	Q2 2023
Providing information to mobile citizens on how to vote during the EP elections in 2024	Reach + additional KPIs depending on the campaign approach (TBC Q1 2023)	TBC Q1

Specific objective 5. High level of personal data protection achieved throughout the EU and EU data protection promoted as a global model

The right to protection of personal data is a fundamental right enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. It is also a key element in delivering the “European way for the digital society” which is human-centred, ensures full respect of EU fundamental rights and further enables people to enforce their rights.

DG JUST will continue assessing – and enforcing where necessary – the **compliance of national legislation with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive (LED)**, and mainstreaming data protection rules into key EU sectoral policies, such as Data Strategy initiatives including common European data spaces, AI, cybersecurity, health, financial services, employment and law enforcement. Compliance assessments of national data protection laws will also be conducted in the context of the annual Schengen evaluations.

As a follow-up to the reports on the application of the GDPR (2020) and of the LED (2022), DG JUST will pursue regular exchanges with national authorities and stakeholders, including through the Member States’ expert group on GDPR and LED, the Multistakeholder expert group on GDPR and the network of police data protection officers (DPOs). It will continue contributing actively to the work of the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) and, to **improve the cooperation between national data protection authorities** in enforcing the GDPR, it will propose to harmonise some national procedural aspects of their work (as announced in the 2023 Commission Work Programme). It will support national data protection authorities through EU grants to reach out to individuals and SMEs in particular.


The Commission will also follow up on the 2022 report on the application of the Regulation on Data Protection for EU Institutions and Bodies (EUDPR), the “GDPR” for EU institutions and bodies, including in view of improving legal certainty and completing the framework for the processing of operational data by EU bodies and agencies within the scope of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

At the international level, the Commission will continue its efforts to **facilitate cross-border data transfers**, using instruments that at the same time ensure the continuity of protections available for personal data in the EU. This includes, in particular, Commission adequacy findings. In this regard, the Commission aims to adopt an adequacy decision for a new **EU-US Data Privacy Framework** as well as to conclude its adequacy dialogue with other foreign partners (e.g. Taiwan) and international organisations. It will also finalise its evaluation of the existing adequacy decisions that were adopted under the former data protection Directive 95/46. In addition, the Commission will complement the recently adopted Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs) with further sets of SCCs for data transfers by EU institutions and in situations where the data importer in a foreign country is already subject to the GDPR.

It will also ensure that international agreements negotiated in other policy areas include appropriate **data protection safeguards** (e.g. EU-US agreement on access to electronic evidence, Europol/Eurojust cooperation agreements) and that digital trade rules agreed at bilateral (FTA) or WTO level (e-Commerce talks) ensure the EU's regulatory autonomy in the area of data protection.

General objective: A new push for European democracy
Specific objective 5: High level of personal data protection achieved throughout the EU and EU data protection promoted as a global model
Related to spending programme(s): REC/CERV Programme

Main outputs in 2023:
New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
 Harmonisation of some national procedural rules for an effective and efficient application of the GDPR	Adoption of the Commission's initiative	Q2 2023
Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs) for EU Institutions and for data transfers to controllers/processors subject to the GDPR	Adoption of Commission decision adopting the SCCs	Q1-Q2 2023

Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
Review of the 11 existing adequacy decisions adopted under former Dir 95/46	Adoption of the Commission report	Q1 2023

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Schengen evaluations (assessment of data protection aspects)	Evaluations performed	5 by end 2023
Adequacy finding for a new EU-US Data Privacy Framework	Adoption of the adequacy decision	Q2 2023

Specific objective 6. Eliminate inequalities and discrimination, and promote equality for all

To further build a “Union of equality”, the Commission will implement a wide range of activities to combat discrimination and promote equality, in line with the dedicated Union of Equality strategies. DG JUST will continue providing input on gender equality and Roma inclusion in the European Semester process and in the implementation and monitoring of the national plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility. The Commission will continue to closely **monitor the correct application of anti-discrimination legislation**⁵ and it will support the Council towards the adoption of the proposed Equal Treatment Directive⁶, to ensure that discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, age, disability and sexual orientation is prohibited in the same way as it is on grounds of sex and race or ethnic origin, beyond the field of employment and occupation. The Commission will actively support negotiations with the co-legislators on its legislative initiative on binding standards for equality bodies, which was proposed end of 2022⁷.

⁵ Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin (OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, p. 22); Council Directive 79/7/EEC of 19 December 1978 on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security (OJ L 6, 10.1.1979, p. 24); Council Directive 2004/113/EC of 13 December 2004 implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services (OJ L 373, 21.12.2004, p. 37); Directive 2006/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (OJ L 204, 26.07.2006, p. 23); Directive 2010/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2010 on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity and repealing Council Directive 86/613/EEC (OJ L 180, 15.7.2010, p. 1).

⁶ Proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation (COM(2008)426).

⁷ COM(2022)688 and COM(2022)689

The Commission will further provide support to Member States to step up national policies and legislation **combatting discrimination** on all grounds through the work of the High Level Group on Non-Discrimination, Equality and Diversity. It will also support diverse projects in the field of non-discrimination under the CERV programme. The Commission will continue to work with Member States to improve the collection of equality data, to support the Diversity Charters and to organise the European Diversity Month and the European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award. The Commission will also publish a Eurobarometer on non-discrimination. In 2023, the Commission will also collaborate with the OECD on a study exploring the concrete impact of gaps in equality, expecting to lead to a policy brief to be presented at the end of 2023.

The Commission will actively contribute to **aging policies** as catalyst, facilitator and communicator in promoting exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of ageing. The Commission will respond to and support initiatives from partners at all levels throughout the EU as well as internationally on the UN level.

To further implement the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan, the Commission will support and co-organise in February 2023 with the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union a conference on Anti-Racism. As indicated in the Commission Work Programme 2023, the Commission will continue its work to **ensure effective protection against discrimination** on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, including in the area of law enforcement (e.g. monitoring of Roma segregation, follow-up of the study on potential gaps in the Racial Equality Directive including the launch of a study on sanctions, etc). Furthermore, the EU Anti-Racism Coordinator will continue to work closely with the subgroup composed of the Member States experts. The subgroup will put forward a checklist for implementation of the guidelines and a compendium of promising practices. A report assessing National Action Plans Against Racism will be put forward by the end of 2023 alongside an assessment of the effectiveness of the actions undertaken to enhance the racial and ethnic diversity of Commission staff. In addition, the Coordinator will continue to ensure a dialogue with civil society organisations as well as with other stakeholders.

The Commission's Coordinator on combating anti-Muslim hatred will be appointed on 1 February 2023 and will interact with Member States, European institutions, civil society and academia to strengthen policy responses in the field of anti-Muslim hatred.

As part of the implementation of the **EU Roma strategic framework** for equality, inclusion and participation the Commission will continue to work closely with the Member States to facilitate the implementation of their national Roma strategic frameworks. In addition, it will support activities promoting positive narratives and Roma role models, combatting negative stereotypes, raising awareness on Roma history and culture, and promoting truth and reconciliation under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme. The Commission also continued working on delivering Preparatory Action Roma Civil Monitoring – strengthening capacity and involvement of Roma and pro-Roma civil society in policy monitoring and review 2020-2025. Building on its previous co-operation and joint work with the Council of Europe, the Commission will start in 2023 a new programme titled EQUIROM (24 months), adapted to the focus of the new EU Roma Framework and designed to

contribute to its implementation. The programme will develop and conduct a broad communication campaign centred on fighting anti gypsyism and anti-Roma discrimination. On 8-9 February 2023 Vice-President Jourova and Commissioner Dalli will meet with Roma CSOs from Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia to discuss about challenges at national level and the best ways to overcome them.

To further implement the **LGBTIQ Equality Strategy**, the Commission will issue in the course of 2023 a midterm report looking at the first achievements, and will work closely with the Swedish and Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union on LGBTIQ equality. It will also continue its work with the LGBTIQ subgroup. In 2023, the Commission will start a joint project with the Council of Europe on anti-LGBTIQ hate speech.

In the area of gender equality, the **fight against gender-based violence** will continue to be one of the Commission's key priorities. The Commission will continue to support negotiations with the co-legislators on the legislative proposal on violence against women and domestic violence. The Commission will also adopt a recommendation on harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation. The Commission will facilitate the adoption of a code of conduct to ensure that internet platforms **tackle online gender-based violence** more effectively. In addition, the Commission will launch a network of Member States and stakeholders to exchange best practices for the prevention of gender-based violence and domestic violence. Finally, the Commission will encourage Member States to make the **EU-wide helpline for victims of violence against women** operational by connecting their national services to the EU-wide number.

To advance **gender equality in the work environment**, the Commission will support the Swedish Presidency to have the proposed Pay Transparency Directive, on which a political agreement was reached in December 2022, formally adopted. The Commission will also promote a better sharing of care responsibilities between women and men by assessing whether Member States correctly transposed the Work-Life Balance Directive and taking appropriate actions against non-compliant Member States. In order to foster the availability of high quality and affordable childcare services, the Commission will start the implementation and monitoring of the new **Council Recommendation on the revised Barcelona targets on early childhood education and care** from December 2022; and pursue the implementation of the **European Care Strategy**. The Commission will also launch a communication campaign to raise awareness among parents and carers about the new rights granted by the Work-Life Balance Directive and promote family-friendly practices of employers. In order to tackle the root causes of gender inequality, the Commission will launch a communication campaign on gender stereotypes with a particular focus on youth. Finally, the Commission will publish its **annual report on gender equality** in the EU ahead of International Women's Day in March 2023.

Finally, DG JUST will strive to promote and apply **equality mainstreaming** in initiatives which are not equality-specific, such as initiatives in the areas of justice and consumers.

General objective: A new push for European democracy

Specific objective 6: Eliminate inequalities and discrimination, and promote equality for all

Related to spending programme(s): REC /CERV Programme

Main outputs in 2023:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Commission Recommendation on Harmful Practices against women and girls ⁸	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023

Enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of Directive 2019/1158 on Work-Life Balance	Assessment of compliance of transposing legislation and appropriate enforcement action in case of non-compliance	Q4 2023

External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Increased awareness on gender stereotypes and on how to challenge them among young people with target audiences in Bulgaria, Czechia, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Poland	Reach: Number of contacts made during the campaign (audited circulation and audience analytics) Other indicators to be defined in function of target audiences, countries and channels selected.	To be defined before launching the project

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Support to interinstitutional negotiations on the Directive on violence against women and domestic violence	General approach in Council	Q2 2023
Support to finalising the Directive on pay transparency	Adoption by co-legislators	Q2 2023
Legislative proposals on binding standards for equality bodies	Adoption of General Approach by Council and Report by EP	Q2 2023

⁸ Presented in the Commission Work Programme 2022 (Annex I), and postponed to 2023.

Output	Indicator	Target
Report on the National Action Plans Against Racism	Adoption by the Commission	Q4 2023
Establishing network on the prevention of gender-based violence	Launch of network	Q1-2 2023
Midterm report on the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy	Publication of the report	Q2 2023
Annual report on Gender Equality in the EU	Publication	By 8 March 2023
Facilitation of the development of a framework for cooperation between internet platforms to protect women's safety online (code of conduct)	Finalisation of code of conduct	Q3-4, 2023
Eurobarometer on Non-Discrimination	Publication of results	Q3 2023

Output	Indicator	Target
<p>Funding actions combatting inequalities and discrimination, and promote equality for all</p>	<p>Actions combatting racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance</p> <p>Number of action grants in the area of anti-discrimination and gender equality as well as in the area of fighting against violence</p> <p>Number of operating grants to promote equality and preventing and combating inequalities and discrimination</p> <p>Number of operating grants in the area of anti-discrimination and gender equality as well as in the area of fighting against violence</p>	<p>Call for proposals to promote equality and to fight against racism, xenophobia and discrimination (CERV-2023-EQUAL): 60</p> <p>Call for proposals to prevent and combat gender-based violence and violence against children (Daphne) (CERV-2023-DAPHNE): 15</p> <p>Operating grant to beneficiary identified in the legal base - EQUINET (CERV-2023-EQUINET) 1</p> <p>Operating grants to framework partners active in the area of Union values (CERV-2023-OG-SGA): 27</p> <p>Combat racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance (5 organisations)</p> <p>Prevent and combat gender-based violence (4 organisations)</p> <p>Prevent and combat violence against children (2 organisations)</p> <p>Promote equality, prevent and combat discrimination (9 organisations)</p> <p>Protect and promote the rights of the child (5 organisations)</p> <p>Promote gender equality (2 organisations)</p>

General objective:

A European Green Deal



*Specific objective: **Improved sustainable consumption by empowering consumers and improved integration of sustainability considerations into companies' and companies' behaviour through an upgraded corporate governance framework***

DG JUST will put forward, in 2023, an initiative promoting a **more sustainable use of goods** throughout their useful life by **amending the Sale of Goods Directive and covering the consumers' right to repair**. The initiative aims to encourage consumers to make more sustainable choices by providing incentives and tools to use goods for a longer time, including by repairing defective goods. It also encourages producers to design goods that last longer and are easy to repair. This would reduce unsustainable consumption and its negative impact on the global environment and climate and contribute to building a circular economy.

DG JUST will continue to actively support negotiations with the co-legislators on the legislative proposal on **Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition**. The proposal aims to improve the information at the point of sale about products' environmental characteristics, such as lifespan and reparability. It also aims to better protect consumers from certain practices, such as greenwashing, product obsolescence or unreliable sustainability labels and digital information tools.

In the context of **company law**, DG JUST, jointly with DG GROW, will continue supporting the legislative negotiations on the proposal for a **Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence** adopted in February 2022. The proposal contributes to delivering the European Green Deal and the Commission's Recovery Plan as well as the headline ambition of "an Economy that works for people". It aims to underpin the just transition to a green and sustainable economy and the recovery after the Covid crisis by fostering sustainable and responsible corporate governance and corporate behaviour. The focus is on putting forward EU-wide, horizontal rules on due diligence that require companies to minimise their adverse human rights and environmental impacts in their own operations, subsidiaries and their value chains.

Under the headline "an Economy that works for people", while continuing on the transposition control of the **revised Shareholders Rights Directive** on fostering long-term shareholder engagement (SRD2), DG JUST will complement its analytical work on the implementation and application of the SRD2 rules, including whether the rules governing the exercise of

shareholder rights and the interaction of shareholders, issuers and intermediaries are appropriate in cross-border situations and in the context of a digital world. The first deliverable will be a Staff working document on possible national regulatory barriers to the use of new digital technologies in the interaction between investors, intermediaries and issuers.

Under the same headline, DG JUST’s work on improving the regulatory and corporate governance **framework for board members in credit institutions** will continue in 2023. DG JUST will support the interinstitutional negotiations of the banking package adopted in October 2021, jointly with DG FISMA. DG JUST will also closely collaborate with DG FISMA to report on the application of the Investment firms’ Directive/Regulation.

General objective: A European Green Deal

Specific objective: Improved sustainable consumption by empowering consumers and improved integration of sustainability considerations into companies’ and companies’ boards behaviour through an upgraded corporate governance framework.

Related to spending programme(s): Not applicable

Main outputs in 2023:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Proposal for a legislative initiative to promote sustainability in consumer after-sales and a new consumer right to repair ⁹	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023

External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Increased number of companies joining the Sustainable Consumption Pledge	No of companies joining the pledge	70

⁹ Presented in the Commission Work Programme 2022 (Annex I), and postponed to 2023.

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Support to interinstitutional negotiations on the banking package (with DG FISMA)	Progress/adoption by co-legislators	Q1-Q2 2023
Support to interinstitutional negotiations on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence proposal	Trilogue start	Q2 2023
Guidelines on the presentation of the report on directors' remuneration	Communication adopted	Q1 2023
Commission SWD on CMU Action Plan Action 12b	Staff working document published	Q4 2022 – Q1 2023
Proposal on Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition	Adoption by co-legislators	Q3 2023

General objective:

A Europe fit for the digital age



Specific objective 1: Consumers are empowered and better protected

The Commission announced in the New Consumer Agenda that it will analyse whether additional action is needed to ensure equal fairness online and offline. In 2023, DG JUST will continue the **Fitness Check of EU consumer law on digital fairness** to assess whether the main horizontal EU consumer law instruments - Unfair Commercial Practices Directive, Consumer Rights Directive and Unfair Contract Terms Directive- ensure a high level of consumer protection in the digital environment and whether improvements are necessary. DG JUST will also work with industry on a voluntary pledge to ensure consumers are empowered to decide on digital advertising models proposed in exchange of free access to content and thus **simplify their cookies and other trackers management**.

Beginning of 2023, DG JUST will finalise its back-to-back evaluation and impact **assessment of the Package Travel Directive** and in the light of the outcome, the Commission may propose a revision of the Directive, an Initiative included in the 2022 Commission Work Programme under the headline ambition A new push for European democracy. As indicated

in the 2022 Commission Work Programme, this exercise aims to evaluate whether the Directive ensures robust and comprehensive consumer protection at all times, including during major disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the first semester of 2023, as announced in the Commission Work Programme 2023 under the headline ambition A new push for European democracy, DG JUST will finalise the back-to-back evaluation and impact assessment of **the Directive on Alternative Dispute Resolution, the Regulation on Online dispute Resolution** and **the Regulation on Consumer Protection Cooperation** and will propose targeted amendments.

The Commission proposal for a Regulation on harmonised rules on fair access to and use of data (**Data Act**) was adopted on 23 February 2022. Article 34 of the proposal stipulates that the Commission shall develop and recommend non-binding model contractual terms on data access and use to assist parties in drafting and negotiating contracts with balanced contractual rights and obligations.


In 2023, DG JUST, together with DG CNECT will follow-up on the Data Act and develop a set of balanced **model contract terms for B2B data sharing** that could be applicable for sharing data across sectors as well as some more tailored model contract terms for some sectors if it is considered that there is a need for such terms, as well as a set of standard contractual clauses for cloud computing services.

DG JUST will continue to actively support negotiations with the co-legislators on the revision of the **Distance Marketing of Financial Services** Directive to better protect consumers in the digital environment, to ensure a level playing field and reduce unnecessary burden for financial service providers.


On the product safety side, DG JUST will help the co-legislator finalise the details and publish the new **General Product Safety Regulation** at the beginning of 2023, and will follow up its adoption (guidelines, implementing acts, etc.). **The Product Safety Pledge** is a voluntary commitment which contributes to the faster removal of dangerous non-food consumer products offered for sale online and strengthens product safety. In 2022, a new pilot project was launched aiming at adding the national consumers organisations to this cooperation.

In 2023, DG JUST will continue to collaborate with its consumer policy stakeholders, notably through the **Consumer Policy Network** with national ministries, the Consumer Policy Advisory Group with consumer organisations, businesses and experts, and with national consumer organisations. DG JUST will develop a **strategic approach to improving consumer awareness and education**, addressing also the needs of different groups, on the basis inter alia of equality and non-discrimination approaches (Action 18 of the New Consumer Agenda).

General objective: A Europe fit for the digital age**Specific objective 1: Consumers are empowered and better protected***Related to spending programme(s): Consumer/ Single Market Programme***Main outputs in 2023:****New policy initiatives:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Consumer Enforcement Package  Legislative proposal to introduce targeted amendments to the consumer protection cooperation Regulation	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023
Commission decision on the safety requirements to be met by European standards for certain children's products and related products	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023
Review of the Package Travel Directive ¹⁰	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2023

Initiatives linked to regulatory simplification and burden reduction

Output	Indicator	Target
Consumer Enforcement Package  Legislative proposal to revise the alternative dispute resolution Directive and to repeal the online dispute resolution Regulation	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023

Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
Fitness Check of EU consumer law on digital fairness - Directives 2005/29/EC, 2011/83/EU, 93/13/EEC	Finalisation and adoption of the Fitness Check report (SWD).	Q2 2024

Public consultations

Output	Indicator	Target
Joint forward-looking public consultation to feed in the impact assessments of the CPC Regulation and the ADR Directive	Publication of feedback report	Q1 2023
Public Consultation on Advanced Dispute Resolutions (Consumer Enforcement Cooperation).	Factual Summary report	Q1 2023

¹⁰ Presented in the Commission Work Programme 2022 (Annex II), and postponed to 2023.

Output	Indicator	Target
Public consultation on the Fitness Check of EU consumer law on digital fairness - Directives 2005/29/EC, 2011/83/EU, 93/13/EEC	Summary report	Q2 2023

External communication actions

EU Product Safety Award	Number of applicants	50 applicants per category Launch in February 2023 and ceremony September or October 2023
Providing information to consumers about the collective action mechanism Representative Actions Directive (EU) 2020/1828	Reach + additional KPIs depending on the campaign approach	Q2 2023
Providing information about consumer rights to Ukrainian communities residing in 8 Member States	Reach + additional KPIs depending on the campaign approach	TBC Q1 2023

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Two Application Reports: 1. CPC Regulation and 2. Joint ADR/ODR	Publication of Reports together with the adoption of the “enforcement package” mentioned above	Q2 2023
Release, maintain and manage ‘REACT’ IT collaboration tool to support the functioning of the representative actions as set up by the Representative Actions Directive (EU) 2020/1828	Release of the IT tool	Q1-Q4 2023
Application report on the Better enforcement and modernisation Directive (EU) 2019/2161 (in parallel with the Fitness check on digital fairness)	Adoption of Conformity assessment of national transpositions, performance of the planned data collection and consultation activities	Q2 2024
Transposition check of the Representative Actions Directive (EU) 2020/1828 (with the help of a contractor)	Preliminary Report by the contractor	end 2023

Output	Indicator	Target
Support to the European Consumer Centres	Organisation of 3 webinars per year	Q1, Q2 and Q4
Consumer Law ready (training of SMEs in consumer law)	Number of trainings of lead trainers and local trainers	58
Model contract terms for B2B data sharing and standard contractual clauses for cloud computing – recommendations by the Expert Group set up in accordance with Data Act	Adoption of the recommendations by the Expert Group	End 2023
Support to co-legislators on the General Product Safety Regulation	Adoption by co-legislators	Q1 2023
Support to co-legislators on the Consumer Credit Directive	Adoption by co-legislators	Q1 2023
Support to co-legislators on the Distance Marketing of Financial Services Directive	Adoption by co-legislators	Q3 2023
Promote a business pledge in relation to cookies management	Number of Pledges agreed	End 2023

Specific objective 2: A human-centric legal framework for Artificial intelligence that protects citizens and promotes cross-border trade

In 2023, DG JUST will support the inter-institutional negotiations on the proposal for a **Directive on adapting non-contractual civil liability rules to artificial intelligence**, adopted by the Commission in September 2022 (AI Liability Directive). The proposal aims to improve the functioning of the internal market by laying down uniform rules for certain aspects of non-contractual civil liability for damage caused with the involvement of AI systems.


General objective: A Europe fit for the digital age

Specific objective 3: Company law improves conditions for companies, including SMEs, in particular to operate and expand cross-border and to use digital tools

Related to spending programme(s): Prerogative Annual Programme 2022 and SMP as from 2021

Main outputs in 2023:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
 Proposal for a Directive to further expand and upgrade the use of digital tools and processes in company law	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
BRIS implementation report – Commission staff working document on the functioning of the Business Register Interconnection System (BRIS) – Technical operation and financial aspects (PLAN/2022/1295)	Publication of Staff working document to accompany the legislative initiative on “Upgrading digital company law”.	Q1 2023

General objective:

Promoting our European way of life



Specific objective 1: Improved cross-border cooperation in civil and criminal matters

In the field of **judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters**, DG JUST will continue supporting the negotiations on the proposed regulation on the law applicable to the third-party effects of assignment of claims with the aim to conclude the trilogues by early 2023.

DG JUST will also ensure the smooth **advancement of the legislative negotiations** on the proposed Directive on protecting persons who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings (**Anti-SLAPP Directive**) which aims to protect journalists and human rights defenders in strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP) by providing civil procedural safeguards for cross-border situations.

DG JUST will also facilitate interinstitutional negotiations on the proposal on harmonising certain aspects of substantive law on insolvency proceedings and the proposal on recognition of parenthood, which have been adopted end of 2022.

With the aim to further enhance the European Area of Justice, DG JUST will propose a new initiative on **the protection of vulnerable adults in cross-border situations** for adoption by the Commission in spring 2023. The 2022 Commission Work Programme announced the initiative as follows: “we will propose measures to improve the recognition of parenthood between Member States and to strengthen judicial cooperation on the protection of vulnerable adults in cross-border situations”. In line with the Disability Strategy and given the correlation between the need for protection of adults and disability, the initiative will ensure full alignment with the obligations of the EU and the Member States under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD). The preparatory work on the initiative continues with the Regulatory Scrutiny Board in January where the initiative will be assessed.

In 2023 DG JUST will continue its work on a possible review of certain existing private **international law instruments**, namely the Rome II Regulation and the Brussels Ia Regulation. The assessment of their application is underway and will be pursued in 2023.

Work in **the international fora** will continue in 2023 in the context of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), Uncitral and Unidroit.

DG JUST will ensure the correct application of existing instruments in the frame of the **European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters**, including some application guides, in particular the guide on the Maintenance Regulation due to be adopted in 2023. The transposition of the 2019 Insolvency and Restructuring Directive will be monitored with the help of a transposition study.

The Commission implements the **European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024**¹⁵ in partnership with the national and EU-level judicial training institutions of the different justice professions of the Member States and the EU level associations of justice professionals. The Justice programme will support training on the rule of law for the judiciary with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), on European legal practices for lawyers to assist refugees from Ukraine with the HELP programme of the Council of Europe. A strong emphasis will be put on the digitalisation of justice, both concerning its consequences on the content of judicial training and on the methodologies used in training. New online tools will be created, along the continued development of the European training platform¹⁶, and a conference of stakeholders will take place. The Commission will also focus on the protection of individuals' rights in the digital space and to upscale training of legal professionals on EU disability legislation, including the UNCRPD, notably within the CERV programme's financial support.

With the purpose of strengthening the **exchange of criminal records information** between the EU Member States, the Commission aims to adopt the relevant implementing acts referred to in Regulation 2019/816 and Directive 2019/884, and to continue its support to the Member States and eu-LISA in the context of the ECRIS-TCN Advisory Group and the Programme Management Board.

DG JUST will also continue to work with the co-legislators towards the swift adoption regarding the proposal for **a renewed Directive on the protection of the Environment through criminal law**. The overall objective of the initiative is to improve law enforcement with regard to environmental issues. Following the adoption, DG JUST will adopt the necessary implementing act(s).

Following the adoption of the Council authorisation to negotiate international agreements with thirteen third countries¹⁷ on **cooperation with Eurojust**, the Commission started contacts with authorities of these countries. These agreements will strengthen operational cooperation, including the exchange of personal data, with the judicial authorities of those countries. DG JUST has approached all countries in 2021 and has started negotiations with

¹⁵ Commission Communication, Ensuring justice in the EU – a European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024, COM(2020)713 final.

¹⁶ <https://e-justice.europa.eu/european-training-platform/>

¹⁷ Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

some of them¹⁸ during 2022. DG JUST hopes to conclude some of the agreements during 2023.

In order to enhance mutual trust between Member States and facilitate judicial cooperation, the Commission aims to adopt **a revision of the Victims' Rights Directive** and present a new proposal on the **Transfer of Criminal Proceedings between Member States**.

General objective: Promoting our European way of life

Specific objective 1: Improved cross-border cooperation in civil and criminal matters

Related to spending programme(s): Justice Programme

Main outputs in 2023:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
Legislative proposal (Regulation and Council Decision) on cross-border protection of vulnerable adults	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023
Proposal for a Directive on transfer of proceedings in criminal matters ¹⁹	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023
Proposal for the amendment of the Victims' Rights Directive ²⁰	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2023
Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the Form for Requests for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters under Article 635 of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023

Evaluations and fitness checks

Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluation of Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 ('EPPO Regulation')	Assessment finalised by the contractor and adoption of the evaluation report by the Commission	Q4 2023 (tbc)

¹⁸ During 2022, the Commission has invited Algeria, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia and Lebanon to start formal negotiations.

¹⁹ Presented in the Commission Work Programme 2022, and postponed to 2023.

²⁰ Presented in the Commission Work Programme 2022 (Annex II), and postponed to 2023.

Enforcement actions

Output	Indicator	Target
EJN Guide on the application of the Maintenance Regulation	Adoption by the EJN civil network	Q2 2023
Transposition check of 2019 Restructuring and Insolvency Directive	Transposition check completed	Checks ongoing in 2023

External communication actions

Output	Indicator	Target
Increased awareness of citizens about victims' rights	Reach: total number of contacts made during the campaign	15mil Q1- Q2 2023

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Support to interinstitutional negotiations on the regulation on the law applicable to the third-party effects of assignment of claims	Adoption by the co-legislators.	Q2 2023
Support to interinstitutional negotiations on the Anti-SLAPP Directive	Adoption by the co-legislators.	Q4 2023
Support to interinstitutional negotiations on the Regulation on the recognition of parenthood	General approach in the Council	Q4 2023
Support to interinstitutional negotiations on the proposal on harmonising certain aspects of substantive law on insolvency proceedings	General approach in the Council	Q4 2023
Yearly summary of received Member States' contributions containing data on manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings against public participation	Report published	Q2 2023
DG Justice and Consumers Annual report on European judicial training	Annual number of justice professionals participating in training on EU law in the EU	201 000 (2021 report-2020 data) 278 000 (2025 report-2024 data)
Implementation of ECRIS-TCN and ECRIS - adoption of implementing acts referred to in Regulation 2019/816 and Directive 2019/884	Adoption by the Commission	Q1-Q3 2023

Output	Indicator	Target
Support to interinstitutional negotiations on the revision of Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law.	Adoption by the co-legislators.	Q3–Q4 2023
Staff Working Document on EAW statistics (PLAN/2022/2290)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2023
Report on the Implementation of the Children’s Rights Directive	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2023
Report on the implementation of the legal aid Directive (PLAN/2022/2049)	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023
Revision of the EAW Handbook (PLAN/2021/11190)	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2023
Funding actions in the area of judicial cooperation and judicial training	<p>Number of action grants in the area of judicial cooperation as well as judicial training</p> <p>Number of operating grants in the area of judicial cooperation as well as judicial training</p>	<p>Call for proposals to proposals to support national and transnational projects to promote judicial cooperation in civil matters (JUST-2023-JCOO): 9</p> <p>Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects on judicial training covering civil law, criminal law or fundamental rights (JUST-2023-JTRA): 8</p> <p>Operating grants under Framework Partnership Agreements in the area of facilitating and supporting judicial cooperation in civil and/or criminal matters (JUST-2023-JCOO-JACC-OG-SGA): 8</p> <p>Operating grant to beneficiary identified in the legal base - EJTN (JUST-2023-EJTN-OG-SGA): 1</p>

*Specific objective 2: **Improved access to justice for citizens and facilitated cross-border cooperation for judicial authorities through better use of digital technologies***

In the State of the European Union address of 14 September 2022, President von der Leyen highlighted **digitalisation as one of the great challenges of the century**. Digital technologies play a crucial role for improving the efficiency, resilience and accessibility of the EU's justice systems. Similarly, the digital transformation of EU judicial cooperation and employing digital means facilitating access to justice in cross-border cases are two essential elements necessary to modernise the European area of freedom, security and justice. Individuals and businesses deserve to have the possibility to use modern, electronic means of communication in order to exercise their rights or seek remedy as provided by EU law, irrespective of their physical location.

Therefore, in 2023 DG JUST will continue to work closely with the co-legislators towards the swift adoption of a Regulation, pursuant to the December 2021 Commission proposal for the **digitalisation of the body of EU civil and criminal judicial cooperation legal instruments**. This initiative seeks to address the urgent need for digitalisation of justice systems and improving access to justice in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis and the current geopolitical realities.

DG JUST will also prepare business requirements and Implementing Acts pertaining to the Regulation concerning the establishment of a collaboration platform to support the functioning of **Joint Investigation Teams** (JITs). The general objective of that initiative is to provide technological support to those involved in a JIT in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of these cross-border investigations and prosecutions.

DG JUST has worked closely with the co-legislators to ensure the swift adoption of the proposal for a **Regulation concerning the digital information exchange in terrorism cases**. It will now work with Eurojust towards the speedy implementation of the proposal changes, in particular the adoption of the implementing acts necessary to facilitate the digitalisation of Eurojust and its exchanges with national competent authorities. Following the adoption of the **Regulation on the e-CODEX system for interoperable cross-border electronic data exchange in the justice area**, the Commission will work closely with the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the

Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA) and other relevant stakeholders in order to ensure the successful takeover of the e-CODEX by the Agency by the end of 2023.

In 2023, DG JUST will continue supporting the process of **digitalisation of cross-border criminal justice** and digital interactions between national justice systems and EU-level agencies and bodies, including Eurojust and the EPPO.

General objective: Promoting our European way of life

Specific objective 2: Improved access to justice for citizens and facilitated crossborder cooperation for judicial authorities through better use of digital technologies

Related to spending programme(s): Digital Europe Programme, Justice Programme, other relevant MFF 2021-2027 funding instruments

Main outputs in 2023:

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Webinars on practical uses of Artificial Intelligence applications in the justice field	Number of organised webinars	At least two webinars organised by the end of Q4 2023
Support to interinstitutional negotiations on the Commission proposal on the Digitalisation of EU cross-border judicial cooperation	Adoption by co-legislators	Q4 2023
Successful takeover of the e-CODEX system by eu-LISA	Successful takeover completed, as declared by the Commission.	By 31 December 2023
Business study on the JITs collaboration platform requirements and specifications	Final report of the study (or its equivalent)	Q2 2023
JITs collaboration platform implementing act(s)	Adoption	Q4 2023
Counter Terrorism Register implementing acts	Stable version of implementing act(s)	Q4 2023

Output	Indicator	Target
Funding actions in the area of access to justice including e-justice	<p>Number of action grants in the area of access to justice including e-justice</p> <p>Number of operating grants in the area of access to justice including e-justice</p>	<p>Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects in the fields of e-Justice, victims' rights and procedural rights (JUST-2023-JACC-EJUSTICE): 9</p> <p>Operating grants under Framework Partnership Agreements in the area of access to justice (JUST-2023-JCOO-JACC-OG-SGA): 7</p>

PART 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for 2023

The internal control framework²¹ supports sound management and decision-making. It notably ensures that risks to the achievement of objectives are taken into account and reduced to acceptable levels through cost-effective controls.

DG JUST has established an **internal control system tailored to its particular characteristics and circumstances**. The effective functioning of the service's internal control system will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the year and be subject to a specific annual assessment covering all internal control principles.

A. Human resource management

A **new organisation chart** will be effective at the beginning of the year (tentative: February) concluding the first phase of a reorganisation process launched in February 2022. The future chart ensures a **better alignment of resources with political priorities**. It will be complemented by a reflection in a DG-wide away day organised mid-2023 on how to further improve the working methods in DG JUST and on the future of its policies. A training for heads of units and deputies on change management at the beginning of the year will assist management in their efforts to support staff deal with the changes.

A 2023 HR Plan (to be approved by senior management) will set out the activities (e.g. workshops, welcome sessions etc.) that will **implement in 2023 the DG's HR priorities established by the 2020-2024 local HR Strategy**. The plan will build on previous activities (e.g., welcome sessions, short information sessions on horizontal topics) to ensure continuity. It will also keep its focus on activities contributing to **foster staff wellbeing** (e.g., flexible working time, WOSSOP - a programme of online sessions on mindfulness, compassion etc. offered by JUST colleagues). Targeted news on the Directorate-general's intranet and/or in the weekly newsletter will regularly update staff on HR issues and invite to participation to the different activities.

DG JUST is fully committed to **gender equality** and contributes to the corporate objectives. It will do so when several senior management functions will be renewed in the 2023.

²¹ [Communication C\(2017\)2373 - Revision of the Internal Control Framework](#)

Objective: DG JUST employs a competent and engaged workforce and contributes to gender equality at all levels of management to effectively deliver on the Commission’s priorities and core business.

Main outputs in 2023:

Output	Indicator	Target
Targeted actions under the DG JUST HR policy oriented towards staff well-being and L&D efforts	Number of activities	4 welcome sessions by end of the year regular (2 –3 per month) online wellbeing activities (except during holiday periods) under the WOSSIP programme by then end of the year 2-3 online conferences or lunch time seminars related to either well-being or specific learning priorities identified in the 2023 HR Plan by the end of the year
Implementation of annual HR Plan under the DG JUST HR Strategy	Implementation	2023

B. Sound financial management

Sound financial management indicators (for example, timeliness of payments, budgetary execution, cost of controls, and number of detected errors) in recent years in DG JUST have been overall satisfactory.

To achieve this and **ensure legality and regularity of transactions**, DG JUST implements its budget in accordance with the Financial Regulation budgetary principles and has in place effective and efficient internal control to tackle any risk to the financial interests of the EU.

- DG JUST **implements controls activities** as established in its financial guide and ensures that budgetary needs are assessed carefully and resources allocated effectively during the year.
- Performance of ex-ante financial controls.
- The deployment of **an audit strategy for ex post audits**. This focuses on risks as in previous years, but it also aims to complete all the remaining audits simultaneously and to ensure equal treatment among selected beneficiaries. These activities aim at providing assurance on the legality and regularity of the

expenditures declared to the Commission, while maximizing the flexibility and efficiency of audit resources.

- The timely application of **financial corrections**, when needed.
- **A regular follow-up** of the state of implementation of all outstanding and overdue audit recommendations issued by the IAS and ECA.
- These control activities will cover all operations related to DG JUST expenditure:
- Management of **procurement procedures** and monitoring contractual compliance (studies, databases, IT contracts, communication actions, expert groups, conferences, etc.), contributing to the functioning of the DG and to the achievement of its policy objectives.

Award and monitoring of the effective **implementation of grants** with a special focus on the verification of the eligibility of costs declared and compliance with grant agreements.

DG JUSTS implements the following corrective actions to address the weaknesses in the error rate in the non-audited population where:

- Some simplifications for the eligible rules have been introduced mainly as regards the centralisation of the guidance.
- DG JUST is working on further simplifications for 2023 for eligibility rules where possible as allowed by the new MFF and the new MGA.
- Ensure a close follow up of the projects with the continuous reporting tool.
- Use the reinforced monitoring option available in SYGMA/COMPASS to ensure a better follow up some of the beneficiaries and that will allow better risk-based ex ante control strategy. Projects are flagged for reinforced monitoring based on a case-by-case analysis.

DG JUST will continue its efforts to reach the targets in the tables below. As every year, DG JUST will do the assessment of its internal control system together with the fraud risk assessment in the frame of the annual risk assessment exercise. In 2023, DG JUST will also adopt its internal control strategy.

Objective: The authorising officer by delegation has reasonable assurance that resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and that cost-effective controls are in place which give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of underlying transactions.

Main outputs in 2023:

Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: Legal and regular transactions	Risk at payment	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
	Estimated risk at closure	remains < 1 % of relevant expenditure

Output	Indicator	Target
Efficient controls	Budget execution and / or timely payments	remains 95% of payment appropriations and/or remains 99% of payments (in value) made on time
Economy of controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	becomes < 4,7% of funds managed

C. Fraud risk management

DG JUST has developed and implemented its own **anti-fraud strategy** since 2012, on the basis of the methodology provided by OLAF, following the adoption of the previous Commission anti-fraud strategy²². It was further updated in April 2018 and again during 2020, setting out an action plan covering the period 2021-2023. The latest update was done considering the new Commission anti-fraud strategy²³ and giving also further consideration to the possible new implications of the adoption of the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. Afterwards it **will be updated and reviewed** as appropriate **every two to three years**. Its implementation will continue to be monitored **twice a year** with reporting to management.

To **minimise the risk of fraud**, as identified following both the fraud risk assessment and the evaluation of the previous anti-fraud strategy and detailed in the updated 2020 anti-fraud strategy, specific anti-fraud related actions will continue to be carried out by DG JUST during 2022, including:

- increasing fraud awareness among staff members through dedicated training sessions and lunchtime seminars to be organised in collaboration with OLAF and / or DG HR experts;
- discussions at management level on how to further strengthen the culture of trust and zero tolerance to fraud in DG JUST, as well as the professional integrity of its staff members;
- regular attendance of the Fraud Prevention and Detection Network meetings, to optimise cooperation with OLAF.

²² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions and the Court of Auditors of 24 September 2011 on the Commission AntiFraud Strategy, COM (2011) 376 final.

²³ Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget', COM(2019) 176 of 29 April 2019 – 'the CAFS Communication' – and the accompanying action plan, SWD(2019) 170 – 'the CAFS Action Plan'.

At the same time, DG JUST will continue to support Member States' **transposition and implementation of the so-called PIF Directive** concerning fight against fraud²⁴ (as detailed in the Action point 54 of the new CAFS's Action plan).

In addition, in 2023 DG JUST will contribute to the process of revision of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy Action Plan lead by OLAF.

Objective: The risk of fraud is minimised through the application of effective anti-fraud measures and the implementation of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS) ⁽²⁵⁾ aimed at the prevention, detection and correction ⁽²⁶⁾ of fraud.

Main outputs in 2023:

Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of the anti-fraud strategy	Percentage of implementation of actions planned for 2022 in the anti-fraud strategy	100%
Training sessions on anti-fraud	Number of participants from the DG in training sessions on anti-fraud	40 per year

D. Digital transformation and information management

Digital transformation

After participating in 2022 at the **elaboration of the new Commission Digital Strategy**, in 2023 DG JUST will start adapting its IT related activities in order to align with the new strategy.

Firstly, DG JUST will put emphasis on **digital skills** of its personnel by continuing to actively participate at corporate cybersecurity awareness raising activities and by encouraging staff to embrace even more collaborative ways of working to improve personnel autonomy, agility and productivity.

²⁴ Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law, OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 29. Transposition deadline: 4 July 2019.

²⁵ Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget', COM(2019) 196 of 29 April 2019 – 'the CAFS Communication' – and the accompanying action plan, SWD(2019) 170 – 'the CAFS Action Plan'.

²⁶ Correction of fraud is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.

Secondly, DG JUST will continue to follow the guidelines of the **Better Regulation Toolbox, especially tool 28**, to detect digital dimension components of policy development, such as cross-border collaboration between Member States Competent Authorities in the justice and consumers domains, interoperability and user-centricity, earlier on. Inter-operability opportunities will be assessed in the spirit of the Interoperable Europa Act proposal for a regulation and will be referenced in the Joinup portal. IT Steering Committee meetings at various levels will constitute a means for further bridging policy development with digitalisation. The proposal for a Directive harmonising insolvency laws will offer the context for showcasing digital-ready policy making.

In the area of **Digital transformation**, DG JUST will make significant progress in addressing the legacy IT systems, by migrating the remaining Drupal 7 IT systems to Drupal 9, while at the same time adopting cloud solutions for these systems.

The **e-Justice Portal** will be migrated to a state of the art technology, re-using the Drupal corporate platform Open Europa and a number of ready-made components of the Commission's Reusable Solutions Platform, like EU Login, e-Translation and corporate Search. Its contents, already coherent with similar external communication outlets of the EU, like the Single Digital Gateway and Your Europe, will also undergo a rationalisation process during the migration to the new technology.

At the same time, DG JUST will continue the rollout of the e-Evidence Digital Exchange System (e-EDES) for cross-border cooperation in the context of European Investigation Order and Mutual Legal Assistance.

Likewise, DG JUST will enhance its capabilities in the data processing domain by making the necessary arrangements for acquiring or getting access to modern equipment and data platforms like the EC Data Platform, in order to be able to perform data driven economic analysis and consumers protection related market surveillance. Other related initiatives, like the Consumers eLab and E-Surveillance Webcrawler will benefit as well in their path to becoming potential re-usable solutions for Commission Services with related business needs.

Following the successful rollout of the e-Surveillance web crawler, in 2023 DG JUST will extend the area of coverage of the concept and tool across the Commission and will seek its integration into the corporate Reusable Solutions Platform, so that other Commission services can re-use it for purposes related to their policy domains.

In 2023 it is foreseen that the majority of DG JUST staff will migrate to the new domain Welcome. Staff will continue to be informed about the need to migrate and will be encouraged to do so.

Information and IT security rules

In 2023 DG JUST will continue to maintain updated its **security plans and relevant corporate inventories** for all IT systems and newly identified measures will be implemented. In particular, following the roll-out in 2022 of the multi factor authentication

(MFA) mechanism for the sensitive non-classified IT systems, its implementation need and feasibility will be assessed for additional IT Systems.

As confirmed at the end of the IAS Audit on DG JUST IT Governance, IT Project Management and IT Software development, DG JUST adequately designed and effectively and efficiently implemented governance and management arrangements for Communication and Information Systems under its responsibility. In this context, a continuous process is dedicated to improve the capacity and maturity of the staff to managing IT security, risk, compliance and cybersecurity in accordance with the requirements indicated by corporate guidelines. For instance, all software assets procured from external suppliers are formally security reviewed by DIGIT.S before any internal deployment and the results discussed by the project manager.

In addition, DG JUST has been piloting the deployment of Governance Risk and Compliance (GRC) system, and will attest all its systems' security controls within the deadline.

It is expected that the adoption of the Cybersecurity Regulation will demand specific work for the whole Commission. DG JUST stands ready to start the compliance work once the relevant guidelines are published.

Data, information and knowledge management

In 2023 DG JUST will roll-out its **revised Data Quality Framework and Guidelines** (amended in 2022 to integrate the requirements derived from Eurostat's Reference Quality Framework for other statistics). Data governance processes will continue to be monitored and enhanced in line with the targets set in the Strategic Plan.

Knowledge management activities with a focus on knowledge sharing and collaboration will support efficient working methods in the context of the internal reorganisation of the DG. A vibrant network of M365 champions accompanies the fast increasing uptake of Teams and SharePoint online across the DG, providing guidance and hands-on support.

Data protection

As regards **data protection compliance**, DG JUST will continue to **monitor and update** the information regarding its processing operations in records in the Data Protection Management System throughout 2023. DG JUST will continue to maintain a full inventory of its external data processing agreements, which will include the standard contractual clauses developed by DG BUDG. With regard to data subjects' rights, DG JUST will continue to apply established administrative practices in particular on identification of data subjects and the responsible operational controller. A total of 0.4 FTE have been allocated to support compliance in the form of a Data Protection Coordinator (DPC) and a deputy DPC. In terms

of **awareness raising**, DG JUST will organise activities such as information at unit meetings and include a data protection module in the introductory training for newcomers. Awareness raising activities will focus on practical issues of relevance to the DG, such as handling data breaches, data subject requests, and organisation of meetings and events. Staff will also be encouraged to participate in the data protection trainings organised by the office of the Data Protection Officer. The objective would be to ensure that 100 DG JUST staff take part in such activities during the year.

Objective: DG JUST is using innovative, trusted digital solutions for better policy-shaping, information management and administrative processes to forge a truly digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven Commission

Main outputs in 2023:

Output	Indicator	Target
Implementation of the corporate principles for data governance for DG JUST's key data assets	Percentage of implementation of the corporate principles for data governance for DG JUST's key data assets	Interim milestone by 2022: 50%
Technical migration of Drupal 7 systems/websites to Drupal 9	Degree of migration of Drupal 7 IT systems to Drupal 9	Target end 2023 - 90%
DG JUST contributes to the attainment of corporate Seamless digital environment strategic objective	Percentage of new DG JUST IT systems complying with the Solution design guidelines.	100%
DG JUST contributes to the attainment of corporate Green, secure and resilient infrastructure strategic objective	Percentage of DG JUST IT systems moved to the cloud brokered by DIGIT	25%
DG JUST updates its security plans every two years	Percentage of Security plans updated during 2023	50%
DG JUST is compliant with the corporate IT security	Percentage of IT systems for which priority controls are implemented and in particular that MFA/EU Login is compliant (or attested as exempt)	100%
DG JUST staff being more aware of cybersecurity	Number of staff participating in cybersecurity awareness raising activities	100
DG JUST staff being more aware of data protection rules	Number of staff participating in awareness raising activities	100

E. Sound environmental management

DG JUST takes account of its environmental impact in its actions and actively promotes **measures to reduce the related day-to-day impact of the administration** and its work, with the support of the respective EMAS Correspondents/EMAS Site Coordinators.

The European Green Deal is one of the headline ambitions of the Von der Leyen Commission. In its Communication, the Commission committed itself to lead by example also in this field. Through **EMAS** - The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme - the Commission wishes to "lead by example" through the reduction of the direct environmental impact of its own activities. DG JUST aims to contribute to that objective through the **following actions** in 2023:

- Sensibilise staff to the need for everyone to contribute to reducing energy consumption in the context of the current energy crisis.
- Regarding missions, assess in each case whether physical presence is really needed, or whether an online meeting could be possible instead.
- Encourage staff to use their digital devices rather than print documents for meetings, thereby reducing waste.
- Encourage staff to turn off their computers at the end of the working day and to take the stairs, in order to reduce electricity consumption.
- Promote the "green" items in the office supplies catalogue with the ECO label.
- Promote the use of the inter-institutional GPP Helpdesk for major tenders above €60,000.
- Promote the EC sustainable events guidelines for all your major events/conferences.

Objective: DG JUST takes account of its environmental impact in their actions and actively promotes measures to reduce the related day-to-day impact of the administration and its work, with the support their respective EMAS Correspondents/EMAS Site Coordinators.

Main outputs in 2023:

I. More efficient use of resources (energy, water, paper):

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline, as appropriate)
Participation in the end of the year energy saving action, by closing down DG's buildings during the Christmas and New Year's holiday period.	Number of buildings participating	100 % of DG buildings participating

II. Reducing CO₂, equivalent CO₂ and other atmospheric emissions

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline)
Gradual increased use (and number of) Videoconference rooms for meetings with stakeholders (avoiding business trips) in the DG, in collaboration with DG SCIC, OIB and OIL.	Number of VC meeting rooms	8 VC meeting rooms
Promote lower emissions resulting from staff and experts' travel, by using online meetings and train travel wherever possible	Emissions stemming from staff and experts' travel	10 % decrease compared to the previous year

III. Reducing and management of waste

Output	Indicator	Target (2019 as baseline)
Staff awareness actions about waste reduction and sorting in the framework of EMAS corporate campaigns and/or staff awareness actions about DG/service's waste generation in collaboration with OIB/OIL where appropriate (for example, promote and label the waste sorting schemes in place).	Number or % of staff informed/participated	100 % of staff informed/participated Reduce waste generation by 5 %

F. Initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities

The introduction of **lump sums in the grant management** in 2023 will be a major simplification because payments will be based on the implementation of the project and no longer based on the reimbursement of costs. This is a major step towards a budget for results.

DG JUST will follow up on **implementation and budget consumption of procurement activities** for all DG JUST Units. This will allow to monitor budget implementation and provide real time information for Policy Units as regards budget availability in a specific year.

In the Financial Regulation (2018) the choice between implementation modes was clarified and linked to the type of entity implementing the action. DG JUST followed the DG BUDG recommendation and introduced the indirect management mode in its work programmes in order to be able to delegate implementation tasks to third entities who are best placed to help achieving the EU objectives.

In 2022, DG JUST launched for the first time a call for proposals for intermediaries with a re-granting scheme (i.e. further disbursement of grants to civil society organisations (CSO) active at local, regional, national level). The call was successful and was well received by CSO who showed interest in the call. Re-granting is continued in CERV 2023 and 2024 Work Programme, where DG JUST has foreseen to use re-granting in a number of calls for action grants and operating grants both under the Daphne and the Union Values strands.